

**REMARKS**

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for claims 14, 16, and 18-31 in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner is again thanked for the careful review and consideration of this case and the notice that claims 16 and 18 are allowed.

Claims 14, 30 and 31 require that the transport elements are positioned to accommodate a flow of gas through said transport elements. Claim 30 requires "gas-permeable, hydrophobic transport elements comprising means for transporting gases away from said negative electrodes, wherein said means for transporting are each positioned to accommodate a flow of gas through said transport elements".

These claims are also amended to recite that "every second negative electrode is split into two parts, the two parts being separated from one another by a hydrophobic, gas-permeable transport element" as is recited in claim 16. As such, claims 14 and 19-31 should be allowable for at least the same reasons claim 16 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection of claims 14 and 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over, van Ommering (US Patent No. 4,115,630) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

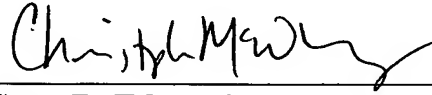
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit  
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 080449.50806).

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Respectfully submitted,



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